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CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Italy

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SUBJECT

Cosmic Ray Research/High-Energy Accelerators

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1955 and earlier

SOURCE

1. The principal interest of university physicists in Italy is the study of cosmic rays. Because of limited funds, the physics departments of various universities have banded together for the purpose of pooling their research resources. This loosely-knit organization purchases high-altitude balloons, photographic plates and other required material, and supervises the launching and recovery of the balloons. The exposed photographic plates are then divided among the participating laboratories, pro-rated on the basis of the size of the financial contribution made by each.
2. Because of favorable weather conditions and unique geographic features, the balloons are launched from Sardinia. Recovery can thus be effected from the Mediterranean Sea. The Italian Navy cooperates by detailing a destroyer to accomplish the recoveries.
3. The physics departments of the following universities participate in this project:

University of Rome - Director: Edoardo Amaldi
 University of Padua - Director: Antonio Bostragni
 University of Turin - Director: G. Wataghin
 University of Milan - Director: G. Polvani
 University of Bologna - Director: Giampietro Puppi
 University of Pisa - Director: Marcello Conversi

Four of these directors are personally active in this project: Amaldi, Wataghin, Puppi and Conversi.

4. Some non-Italian universities and laboratories are associated with the project. The University of Bristol, Director C. F. Powell, is one; another is a French laboratory whose director is Leprince-Ringuet.

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6. Two high-energy accelerators are under construction in Italy. One, near Rome, is being sponsored by the National Council of Research; this will be a one Bev (billion electron volts) machine. The other, which may by now [February 1955] be in use, is a 100 Mev (million electron volts) machine at the University of Turin; this machine is to be used, I believe, primarily for medical research.

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